Electronic Signatures Project

FY2002 Request:	**$100,000**
Reference No:	**33936**

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Public Support Technology/Service
Location: Statewide
Election District: Statewide
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Project Type: Information Systems

Contact: Dan Spencer
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
Funding will be used to purchase hardware, software, and provide staff to evaluate and pilot electronic signature technology.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Gen Fund	$100,000						$100,000
Total:	$100,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$100,000

☐ State Match Required	☒ One-Time Project	☐ Phased Project	☐ On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required	☐ Amendment	☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:
This project has received no prior year funding.

State of Alaska Capital Project Summary
FY2002 Governor's Amended
3/2/01 3:02:31 PM   Page: 1

Department of Administration
Reference No: 33936
Released December 15th

Project Overview

The purpose of this project is to evaluate and pilot electronic signature technology. Funding will be used to test this electronic signature technology to ensure that it meets the needs of Alaska state government.

Recently, federal and state laws have been passed recognizing electronic signatures as the legal equivalent of a hand-written signature. Many state business processes and corresponding documents today require signatures. Many of these processes are now on-line, on the internet, and can be electronically processed through the internet or email. However, the page(s) containing the signature(s) must be faxed or mailed. This project will pilot the technology that will allow for these signature pages to be submitted electronically, along the complete document. The current two-step process has created room for fraud, and created more work, more confusion, and more overhead on both the public and state agency staff. It has also lowered the level of integrity and security involved in submitting documents.

Use of electronic signature technology will speed up state business transactions. It will allow the complete, electronic submission of documents, contracts and other business transactions. The general public must now come in to state offices or use the postal service to complete their business with state government; this technology will expand the public's options in their interaction with state government.

Electronic signature technology will also introduce a layer of security to transactions that does not exist today. It can be used by someone to authenticate the identity of the sender of a message or the signer of a document. It can also be used to ensure that the original content of the message or document that has been sent is unchanged.

This electronic signature pilot project will determine whether electronic signature technology is reliable, beneficial, and appropriate for state business, which may lead to other public agencies adapting the technology for some of their business processes as appropriate. They will benefit from the 'lessons learned' and 'best practices' this project will develop, and will be able to implement this type of technology more quickly, more effectively, with fewer costs associated with training staff.

In order to complete the project, the following is required:

Hardware costs- Server - $20,000
Software costs - (client and certification authority software) - $50,000
Project management/staff costs - $30,000

State of Alaska Capital Project Summary
FY2002 Governor's Amended
3/2/01 3:02:31 PM
Page: 2
Department of Administration
Reference No: 33936
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